

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 CEA-02 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-03

USIA-12 PRS-01 INT-08 GSA-01 OEP-01 RSR-01 /226 W

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R 081755 Z JUN 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9738

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD, GATT, FAO

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 106709; GENEVA 2382 AND 1922

BEGIN SUMMARY: UNCTAD SECRETARIAT HOPES CIRCULATE NOTE SOON ON INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED LATINS AGREE ON HANDLING OF COFFEE CONSULTATIONS. SECRETARIAT NOW SEES FIRST SESSION ON MOST COMMODITIES AS ESSENTIALLY EXPLORATORY WITH DETAILED DISCUSSIONS BEING RESERVED FOR SECOND SESSION. SPECIFIC TIMING OF MEETINGS BEING LEFT TO COMMODITY BODIES CONCERNED. END SUMMARY

1. MISOFF CALLED ON CHIDZERO, DIRECTOR OF UNCTAD COMMODITIES DIVISION, ON JUNE 8 TO DISCUSS STATE OF PLAY
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ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RES U (VII) OF COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES AND US VIEWS ON TIMING OF CONSULTATIONS. CHIDZERO SAID UNCTAD SYG PEREZ- GUERRERO (P- G) NOW IN PROCESS OF FORMULATING POSITION BUT AGREED ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS BRIEF MISOFF ON SECRETARIAT THINKING. IDEA IS FOR SECRETARIAT TO ISSUE FORMAL WRITTEN NOTICE TO INFORM ALL MEMBERS OF UNCTAD OF DETAILS OF SUGGESTIONS GIVEN INFORMALLY TO GENEVA DELS (GENEVA 1922). PROGRAM WOULD BE PRESUMED ACCEPTABLE UNLESS OBJECTED TO BY GOVERNMENTS.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF ABOVE DEPENDS ON FINAL RESOLUTION OF COFFEE PROBLEM. P- G THINKS HE HAS APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF MAIN LATIN COUNTRIES. KEY BRAZILIAN AND COLOMBIAN COFFEE OFFICIALS TOLD HIM DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TIME NEEDED TO THINK THROUGH CURRENT SITUATION IN COFFEE AND NOT SURE WHAT CONSULTATIONS WOULD ACHIEVE. NEVERTHELESS, THEY WILLING TO LET PG DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE IN UNCTAD. ARMED WITH APPROVAL OF AFRICAN DELS, P- G NOW SEEKING ACCEPTANCE OF LOCAL LATIN DELS TO PROPOSAL REFER QUESTION OF CONSULTATIONS TO COFFEE COUNCIL FOR DUE CONSIDERATION AT TIME TO BE DETERMINED. SECRETARIAT DOES NOT EXPECT CONSULTATIONS TO TAKE PLACE. MISOFF MADE CLEAR THAT ACCEPTANCE OF COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS BY GROUP B WAS BASED ON ORIGINAL LIST WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE COFFEE. CHIDZERO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT GROUP B COUNTRIES WERE AWARE THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE CONTINUING TO RESOLVE QUESTION OF COFFEE.

3. MOST INTERESTING REVELATION BY CHIDZERO WAS THAT ARGENTINA HAD OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF MAIZE AND SORGHUM UNDER GRAINS IN LIST OF COMMODITIES BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH MTN. ARGENTINIANS APPARENTLY AGREED ONLY AFTER BEING TOLD THAT FIRST SESSION OF MOST MEETINGS WOULD BE ONLY EXPLORATORY. OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO SEE WHETHER THERE ARE SUFFICIENT ISSUES TO WARRANT CONSULTATIONS AND, IF SO, TO SPECIFY WHAT FURTHER INFORMATION OR STUDIES ARE NEEDED FOR SECOND AND MORE DEFINITIVE MEETING. CHIDZERO SAID SECRETARIAT DOES NOT WISH TO RIVAL BUT TO ARTICULATE ISSUES IN HOPE OF HELPING MTN.

4. RE PARTICIPATION, CHIDZERO SAID STATUS OF NON- FAO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBERS WILL HAVE BE CLARIFIED AT CURRENT FAO COUNCIL SESSION. OBJECTIVE IS TO GET COUNCIL TO INVITE ALL MEMBERS OF UN (READ USSR) AND TO ASSURE PARTICIPATION GDR WHICH ALTHOUGH MEMBER OF SPECIALIZED AGENCY, IS NOT MEMBER OF UN.

5. AS TO TIMING, CHIDZERO SAID SPECIFIC DATES OF CONSULTA-

TIONS PRINCIPALLY A QUESTION FOR COMMODITY BODIES CONCERNED.
HE SAID UNCTAD WANTED CONSULTATIONS GROUPE TO MAKE
EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES. UNCTAD AND FAO WOULD LIKE
TO HANDLE HIDES AND SKINS IN GENEVA SOMETIME IN DECEMBER.
SINCE MOST FIRST SESSIONS LIKELY LAST TWO- THREE DAYS, HE THOUGHT
THIS COULD BE COORDINATED WITH RICE, OIL AND CITRUS MEETINGS.
SUBJECT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GROUPS, HE TENTATIVELY
AGREED HOLD TUNGSTEN MEETING WEEK OF OCTOBER 29. BASSIN

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